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## PRESS RELEASE

August 24, 1990

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### **Art Museum to Build Deck and Charge Parking Fees**

The recent decision by the trustees of The Cleveland Museum of Art to build a parking deck and to charge for public parking goes into effect Tuesday, September 4. Parking income will pay for a deck for 216 more cars, to be built over the present lower lot between October 1990 and May 1991, and will contribute to the Museum's operating expenses. The charges make it possible to continue offering free admission to the Museum to all visitors.

The upper lot, off Wade Oval, will be open for public parking seven days a week. Museum hours are: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 am-5:45 pm; Wednesday, 10 am-9:45 pm; Saturday, 9 am-4:45 pm; Sunday, 1-5:45 pm. On Monday, when Museum offices are open but all galleries are closed, the lot will be open 9 am-5 pm.

Parking fees are based on current charges at all staffed University Circle parking lots: 75 cents per half-hour, with a cap of \$6 for 4 hours or more. Cars with parking cards for the handicapped will park free. Exemptions and discounts will be available for visitors to specific paid Museum events such as films, concerts, and certain education programs.

#### **ON THURSDAYS PARKING WILL BE FREE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.**

Expanded safe parking requires inconvenience during construction and the Museum's reluctant departure from a policy of free parking. "Even an institution blessed with a large endowment, as the Museum is, can no longer provide all services free, as it has done for so long," director Evan Turner said. "The trustees' decision to undertake the parking facility, to pay for it out of parking fees, and to secure a new source of income for the Museum's operations is a wise one. It reflects our present commitment to maintain free admission for everyone to the Museum itself."

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